REMARKS:

Claims 1-32 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 33-37 and new claims 38-53 are pending in the application.

Claims 33-37 have been allowed.

Claims 24 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New independent claim 38 is original claim 24 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of independent base claim 23. New dependent claims 39-45 are original dependent claims 26-32 rewritten to depend from allowable base claim 38.

New independent claim 46 is original claim 25 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of independent base claim 23. New dependent claims 47-53 are original dependent claims 26-32 rewritten to depend from allowable base claim 46.

In view of the amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Since there were no net increases in the number of independent claims and total claims, it is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on May 31, 2007

Reg. No. 44,640

Grant Prideco, L.P. 400 N. Sam Houston Prkwy East Suite 900 Houston, TX 77060 Ph: 281-878-5658

Fax: 281-878-5720

e-mail: jeffery.daly@grantprideco.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 or by facsimile or electronic transmission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

5/31/2007 /Jeffery E. Daly/
Date Electronic Signature